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# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY



RECORDING THE HISTORIC STRUCTURES  
AND EARLY ARCHITECTURE OF THE  
UNITED STATES AND POSSESSIONS BY  
MEASURED DRAWINGS · PHOTOGRAPHS  
AND MANUSCRIPTS      \*



CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION





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*The Historic  
American Buildings*  
SURVEY



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAROLD L. ICKES, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ARNO B. CAMMERER, *Director*

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HAROLD L. ICKES, SECRETARY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ARNO B. CAMMERER, DIRECTOR

**C**ONDUCTED by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, in collaboration with the Library of Congress, the American Institute of Architects, the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, the Civil Works Administration, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and the Works Progress Administration.

## FORWORD

DURING the last session of the Congress, legislation was enacted empowering the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, to make surveys and other investigations regarding historic American buildings and to arrange for their preservation by contract, acquisition, or other means.

For two years the Historic American Buildings Survey has been studying and recording the early structures of the United States, building up an imposing collection of records in the Library of Congress for the use of architects, students, governmental departments, and the general public.

It is hoped that the brief review of the Survey's activities and accomplishments which follows will prove useful in the present discussion of the important program given the National Park Service by the new legislation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON D.C.  
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE  
HISTORIC BUILDING  
KNOWN AS  
*Havertford Hall*  
IN THE COUNTY OF  
*Lincoln*  
AND THE STATE OF  
*Maryland*  
HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE  
HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
AS POSSESSING EXCEPTIONAL  
HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL  
INTEREST AND AS BEING WORTHY  
OF MOST CAREFUL PRESERVATION  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF FUTURE  
GENERATIONS AND THAT TO THIS  
END A RECORD OF ITS PRESENT  
APPEARANCE AND CONDITION  
HAS BEEN MADE AND DEPOSITED  
FOR PERMANENT REFERENCE IN THE  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

ATTEST

*Andrew Mote*  
District Officer



*Harold L. Ickes*  
Secretary of the Interior

(Facsimile of Survey Certificate.)

**THE IMPORTANCE OF  
THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
IN OUR SCHEME OF CONSERVATION  
OF NATIONAL RESOURCES**

The Historic American Buildings Survey is an important step forward in the conservation of our national historic resources. The type of shelter devised by mankind in every age and climate is an expression of the life of the people. In the United States, the adobe hut, the cliff dwelling of the agricultural Indian, the tepee of the nomad, the log cabin of the pioneer, the cottage, the farmhouse in the country, the city dwelling, each expresses eloquently the culture and mode of life of the original tenant or owner.

The churches and missions of the Franciscans and Jesuits of the South and West, the churches of the Russians in Alaska, the meeting houses of the Puritans in the East and Middle West, the colleges, hospitals, mills, warehouses, shops, and other buildings of use in the community all belong to a chapter of the Nation's history. Unfortunately, a large part of our early American architecture has disappeared. It is inevitable that the majority of structures will at some time outlive their ultimate usefulness. And it admittedly is impracticable to preserve all buildings or sites associated with events of incontestable historic importance.

It is possible, however, to record in a graphic manner and by photography, before it is too late, the exact appearance of these buildings and their surroundings. This is the purpose of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

The buildings considered have been selected for measuring and photographing in the approximate order of their historic and architectural importance in their districts. The record is made as a form of insurance against loss of data through future destruction, and also as a contribution to the study of historic architecture.

Harold L. Fisher

**Secretary of the Interior.**



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HISTORIC  
AMERICAN BUILDINGS  
SURVEY

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ORIGIN OF THE PLAN

A very notable undertaking, made possible by the use of Federal relief funds, was inaugurated by the Branch of Plans and Design<sup>1</sup> of the National Park Service in the latter part of 1933. Under a Nation-wide plan, unemployed architects, draftsmen, and photographers were enrolled to secure, by measured drawings and photographs, as complete a graphic record as possible of the rapidly disappearing examples of early architecture and historic structures throughout the country. This marked the first major step upon the part of the Federal Government toward the cataloging and preservation of historic structures. Technically, this project provided work for unemployed architects and draftsmen with funds available from the Civil Works Administration. Actually, it was a tremendous step forward in any plan looking toward the preservation of historic treasures of America.

CIVIL WORKS PHASE

The original proposal, including a justification, administrative outline and estimate, was submitted to the Secretary of the Interior on November 15, 1933. It was approved by

<sup>1</sup> The Project was first presented to the Director of the National Park Service by Charles E. Peterson, then Chief of the Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Designs.

the Secretary November 17 and by the Federal Relief Administration December 1. The appointment of a facilitating personnel in Washington and the field was immediately begun. A National Advisory Board was also assembled.

The field included all but six States of the Northwest which were left out because of winter climate conditions and because of the relatively few architects there who might be unemployed. The balance of the country was divided into 39 districts with a district officer nominated by the American Institute of Architects and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Immediately upon appointment these officers contacted the local C. W. A. offices to secure architects and draftsmen for the field parties. Supplies and detailed instructions were furnished from Washington through the district offices. Office space was furnished gratis by private citizens and public organizations.

Working parties in general began operations about the first week in January in spite of unusually severe winter weather. The personnel was built up day by day until the general C. W. A. order of January 18 stopped new employment. At the height of activity 772 persons were employed. Beginning February 15 came the gradual close-down with reductions of 10 percent weekly. On May 1 the C. W. A. program officially ended. A considerable number of the men contributed their services after this date to complete certain unfinished projects.

The approved Civil Works budget of the Survey amounted to a total of \$448,000. Actual expenditures for the full campaign came to \$196,267.63.

#### D E V E L O P M E N T   O F   N A T I O N A L   P L A N

The undertaking was so successful that an agreement was entered into by the National Park Service, the American Institute of Architects, and the Library of Congress to insure that all future enterprises of the same nature should form a

continuous development of the Historic American Buildings Survey already begun.

Upon ratification of the agreement and confirmation of the "voluntary collaborators", who were to serve as district officers, negotiations commenced in every section of the country for the completion of the National Record through private cooperation, school and university activities, and local emergency relief projects.

#### E M E R G E N C Y   R E L I E F   P H A S E

To continue the valuable work relief and research program of the Survey a number of States have made use of emergency relief funds since the close of the first national program. General supervision and material supplies have been given these local programs by the National Park Service. During 1934 and 1935 E. R. A. projects of the Survey have been set up by Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Virginia, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Washington, and California. An average of 300 persons was maintained under these State and county organizations. While these local efforts have made valuable additions to the growing collection of Historic Americana, much important work has been necessarily postponed against the resumption of a more thorough national program.

#### P U B L I C   W O R K S   P H A S E

As local projects for Survey work increased and looked to Washington for guidance and supplies an increasing burden of extra administration was placed upon the Branch of Plans and Design. To provide for continuation of a separate administrative group the Secretary of the Interior approved several special allotments of Public Works funds during 1934 and 1935.

In addition, a Public Works Allotment was made in 1934 to provide for the completion of the architectural survey of

the prehistoric Pueblo of Acoma, in New Mexico, which had been started with Civil Works funds.

#### UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL PHASE

Universities and schools of architecture have quickly grasped the educative value of survey work, both to the men who measure and draw and to future students of the documents made. For more than a year these institutions have been building up a system of collaborative student thesis work on the Survey; or have actually contributed funds, administrative services, drafting space, and supplies.

A member of the National Advisory Committee of the Survey, viewing the work already done, has recently suggested that facilities of the Survey be used by local educators to enhance the teaching of American history by a presentation of its background of architecture and craftsmanship.

#### PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION PHASE

Many early American structures have been and are being measured as a part of private architectural practice, both for research and for restoration purposes. From the first, the Survey administration has considered these activities as potential collaborative projects. As a result, loans and contributions of notes, photographs, and drawings have been accepted. Especially in the case of structures partially or completely destroyed since the original private measurement these contributions and loans have been of inestimable value. From time to time agreements are made with individual architects and draftsmen which provide for the contribution to the Survey collection of records made upon the standard drawing sheets and forms. Many records remaining unfinished at the sudden close of work relief projects have been completed only because of contributions by architects and draftsmen.

#### A D V I S O R Y   S T A F F S

The policies of the Survey have from the beginning been generated and guided by an imposing advisory personnel, working in collaboration with the appointed administrators. A national advisory committee, so composed as to be representative of the several geographic divisions of cultural development, consults with the Chief Architect and the Washington staff. The members of this board, on honorary appointment in the Department of the Interior, are as follows:

- Dr. Leicester B. Holland, chairman (chairman of the American Institute of Architects Committee on Preservation Historic Buildings, and Chief of Fine Arts Division, Library of Congress), Washington, D. C.
- John Gaw Meem (architect), Santa Fe, N. Mex.
- William G. Perry (architect), Boston, Mass.
- Albert Simons (architect), Charleston, S. C.
- Thomas E. Tallmadge (architect), Chicago, Ill.
- Dr. Herbert E. Bolton (professor of history, University of California, past president of the American Historical Association), Berkeley, Calif.
- Miss Harlean James (executive secretary, American Civic Association), Washington, D. C.
- Dr. Waldo G. Leland (executive secretary, American Council of Learned Societies), Washington, D. C.
- I. T. Frary, Cleveland Museum of Arts, Cleveland, Ohio.

Each district officer is assisted by an advisory committee composed of prominent local architectural and historical authorities, serving without compensation. These local boards select and rate the structures which are proposed for recording.

#### P R O D U C T   O F   T H E   S U R V E Y

Approved structures of historical and architectural importance are carefully measured by Survey workers, upon grant-

ing of permission by the owners. Field notes are transformed by the draftsmen into permanent measured drawings in ink, easily duplicated and suitable for use by architects, historians, and the general public. Supplementary photographs and written data are also prepared and filed with the graphic records.

Since the inauguration of Survey field work in January 1934, complete measurements have been made of over 1,400 structures. Of these, 1,255 have already been recorded in formal measured drawings, making a total of 7,860 sheets. Photographic records have been made of nearly 1,600 subjects, with a total of 6,560 photographs. In addition, index cards, listing and describing over 2,000 subjects not yet recorded, have been prepared and filed.

Survey documents have found use as data for restoration and research by the National Park Service and other branches of Federal and State Governments, as well as by private architects, historical associations, and libraries. Survey records are constantly being reprinted by architectural publishing companies for use by architects as reference material. Thousands of copies of the original documents have been made and deposited with local governments, libraries, and associations.

The indirect product of the Survey takes several significant forms:

Training and rehabilitation of a needy professional class.  
Education of owners in the community value of their property, with resultant care for preservation of historic monuments.

A more accurate and wider appreciation of American architecture and its historical implications than has ever been possible before.

#### M A R K I N G   S U R V E Y E D   S T R U C T U R E S

When the records of an historic structure are completed and approved for deposit in the Library of Congress, a cer-

tificate is given to the owner. This document bears a statement of the action taken by the Survey and calls attention to the importance of the structure and the desirability of its preservation. The facsimile signature of the Secretary of the Interior and the Department seal is affixed. The document is completed and signed by the district officer. These certificates are framed and displayed in the building, wherever practicable.

## H. A. B. S. REDIVIVUS

(Reprinted from the November 1934 number of *The Octagon*, a Journal of The American Institute of Architects)

**S**LIGHTLY less than a year ago the Historic American Buildings Survey was inaugurated by the National Park Service of the United States Government. The aims were twofold; the immediate one being to provide relief work for unemployed architects and draftsmen with funds then available from the Civil Works Administration, while the ultimate aim was to secure in measured drawings and photographs as complete a graphic record as possible of the rapidly disappearing examples of early architecture throughout the country.

Probably all members of the Institute know something of the history of the project; how the country was divided into 39 districts with an administrative officer for each, nominated by the local chapters of the Institute and appointed by the Department of the Interior; how work began in general about the first of January and continued with increasing activity until February 15 when the gradual closing down of all C. W. A. enterprises was ordered. But it may be worth while to note the statistics of achievement. At the height of activity 772 persons were employed, 5,110 sheets of drawings representing 882 measured structures were completed, with brief historical sketches and 3,260 photographs. Besides these, index cards were prepared, not only for the buildings measured but for 1,461 others suitable for future recording. All this material, together with the field notebooks, is now being deposited at the Library of Congress, where it will be available not only for consultation, but for reproduction by blueprinting or other photographic methods. In fact, the work of reproduction has already begun. The architect and engineer is issuing a series of plates of the work done in California, and the Architectural Forum has commenced the bimonthly publication of selected material from various sections.

The undertaking was so successful that an agreement has been entered into by the National Park Service, the American Institute of Architects and the Library of Congress to insure that all future enterprises of the same nature should form a continuous development of the Historic American Buildings Survey already begun. This agreement is given in full in this number of the *Octagon*. It will be noted that a slight change in organization has been necessary. Instead of the 39 districts originally

assigned by the Park Service, the country is now divided to conform to the 67 chapters of the Institute with a district officer appointed from each chapter.

As the Institute's committee on preservation of historic buildings has heretofore been composed of representatives from each of the chapters, it seemed reasonable that these committeemen and the district officers should be identical. This has entailed a general reconstitution of the committee so that wherever possible those who had already served as district officers should be continued in that capacity. Of course, this has meant much change, with the displacement of many good men who have long served on the committee, but all can easily appreciate the importance of capitalizing the experience gained on the first campaign of the Survey.

The only complaints that have been heard from any source regarding this first campaign are that it was neither broad enough nor long enough. For only a fraction of the material immediately available for recording could be surveyed, and only a fraction of the many architects in need of aid could be employed. And the need of aid continues and is as acute now as it was a year ago. Obviously the Survey should be continued and, if possible, enlarged.

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In practice, it may be that the district officers of the chapters may not be called upon to serve as the active administrators of new campaigns, but they should always be recognized as acting in a supervisory capacity at least. For by the terms of the agreement, the Historic American Buildings Survey can only be conducted with the cooperation of the Institute, and the National Park Service will not undertake to supply the standard drawing sheets except through the officers nominated by the chapters, and only for projects approved by them. Finally, all the drawings must be passed upon and accepted by the chapters' district officers before they can be sent to Washington to form part of the archives of the official Survey. For without some continuous control, there could be no assurance that new work would form a proper part of the great collection so admirably begun.



## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS, AND THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

*Relating to the Historic American Buildings Survey as a Permanent Organization to Coordinate  
all Future Work of Recording Historic American Buildings*

**T**HE task of preserving records of the historic monuments of America has become a work of vital necessity. The clearest record of the Nation's life lies in the structures it has built.

Unfortunately, many buildings that would be highly prized today have already disappeared. Large sums are constantly being spent to rebuild such landmarks as: the vanished first Capitol of Virginia at Williamsburg, the first State House in Maryland at St. Marys, and Wakefield, the birthplace of Washington. In the absence of complete records such reconstructions must all be, to some extent, imaginary.

Even while we are preserving and restoring some of the monuments of our history, many others are daily disappearing. Through slow destruction by decay and swift loss by fire; the exigencies of civic and commercial developments; we are through succeeding generations losing many of the most perfect monuments of our past culture in history. The National Government cannot be expected to arrest all of these local losses, but it can lend its authority and aid to the making of records before all of these historic buildings are lost to posterity. It should be the aim of such governmental direction to make available these records for future reference by architects, students, and the public in general.

Although disconnected efforts have been made from time to time to record local samples of our domestic architecture, no national plans had been launched until the inception of the Historic American Buildings Survey in November. At that time a Civil Works appropriation made possible a few months operation of the Survey under the direction of The National Park Service with the cooperation of the American Institute of Architects and the Library of Congress.

During this brief period two facts have become clearly apparent:

1. There is vital need for a permanent national plan to coordinate all work of this nature and to make it available to the public for research.
2. The present standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey form an excellent basis for a continuous and much more comprehensive survey.

The scattered surveys that have heretofore been made through efforts of local organizations and individual enthusiasm have yielded heterogeneous results, with considerable duplication, and have been of little practical value to the general public.

A comprehensive and continuous national survey is the logical concern of the Federal Government: The National Park Service in the Department of the Interior seems the proper place for such responsibility. The local execution must depend on some permanent nongovernmental body, of national scope, functioning by local organizations: The American Institute of Architects fulfills these requirements perfectly. For the guardianship of the records, the Government again seems the proper functionary, and for this purpose the Library of Congress with its Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture stands equipped and ready.

Since the Historic American Buildings Survey became generally known numerous offers of cooperation on the part of individuals and societies have been made to the officials of the survey. It has been demonstrated that many interested persons throughout the country are merely waiting for the opportunity to cooperate with such a national plan. Societies, civic organizations, and even local Governments oftentimes have a particular interest in certain historic monuments. Proposals which have already been made to the officers of the Historic American Buildings Survey indicate that if there is a definite plan for embracing such future activities there will be a number of monuments recorded at the expense of such organizations. Here again, the assurance that the records are to be part of the Nation's collection of recorded American architecture, available to the public for research purposes, would give a particular incentive to the organization interested.

In view of the above conditions, therefore, the National Park Service, hereinafter referred to as the Park Service; the American Institute of Architects, hereinafter referred to as the Institute; and the Library of Congress, hereinafter referred to as the Library; do hereby mutually agree as follows:

#### ARTICLE I · CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY AS A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

(1) The Historic American Buildings Survey is to be considered as a permanent plan for approval and disposition of all future graphic records of historic American architecture, whether such records be made at the expense of the Government or upon individual initiative. This organization will function through the cooperation of the Park Service, the Institute, and the Library.

## ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

(1) Provision is to be made for the establishment of geographical districts, each district under the jurisdiction of one of the present 67 chapters of the Institute, or chapters hereafter duly approved by the Institute. At the request of the national officers of the Institute, the members of each local chapter will select a district officer from among the chapter's membership, who will thereafter superintend all future work of the Historic American Buildings Survey during his term of office.

(2) District officers shall be advised by the National Advisory Board and by whatever special committees the local chapter shall see fit to appoint, as to the correct methods and solution of particular problems. District officers shall be directly responsible to the Chief Architect of the Park Service for the maintenance of proper standards and care of Survey records.

(3) The present membership of the National Advisory Board of the Survey is to continue intact until such time as the national officers of the Institute, in conjunction with the Chief Architect, shall see fit to make changes or additions to the personnel of the Board.

(4) The organization as outlined above is to be continuous, regardless of whatever special organizations may be set up for the operation of the Survey in whole or in part at the expense of the Federal Government or other organizations. In such cases the person in charge of the Survey in any locality shall be a district officer as herein designated or shall cooperate fully with the district officer or officers having jurisdiction in that locality; and shall accept the recommendations of such district officer or officers except when otherwise instructed by the National Advisory Board and the Chief Architect of the Park Service.

## ARTICLE III. SUPPLIES

(1) The Park Service will supply, for all approved work upon the Historic American Buildings Survey, standard drawing sheets of the same size as those now used for the presentation of Survey drawings; such supplies not to exceed a total of ten thousand (10,000) sheets. Space is to be provided on each drawing sheet for the proper identification of the work according to the individual or organizations contributing the records.

(2) All other supplies for actual field work and drawing shall be furnished without expense to the Park Service.

#### A R T I C L E I V . O P E R A T I O N

(1) The district officer shall secure from the records so far compiled by the Historic American Buildings Survey a list of historic American monuments in his district, together with the necessary information to indicate the worth of such monuments, necessity for recording, and the amount of recording that has already been adequately accomplished according to the standards of the Survey. It shall be his duty to keep such a record up to date and to furnish individuals and organizations proposing contributions with the necessary information requisite for a coordinated plan of work.

(2) Each district officer will be informed of the requirements for the making and the disposition of Survey records. All such specifications are to be in exact accord with the requirements now set forth in the official bulletins of the Historic American Buildings Survey which form an appendix to this agreement; except when amendments or alterations to these specifications shall be officially made and promulgated by the present National Advisory Board or their official successors.

(3) District officers shall have the authority to accept or refuse to accept any contributions to the records of the Survey. Any disputes regarding the standards or operation of the Survey shall be settled by the National Advisory Board at the request of the Chief Architect of the Park Service.

(4) Members of the National Advisory Board and district officers, as herein designated, shall serve without compensation or expense to the Government except in case of a special Government appropriation being made for the appointment of such district officers or members of the National Advisory Board to regular Government service.

(5) This agreement shall not be construed as a promise to pay any expenses of the Historic American Building Survey, or to impose any liability or financial obligations, on the part of the Park Service, the Institute, or the Library; except as provided in article III, section 1.

#### A R T I C L E V . D I S P O S I T I O N O F R E C O R D S

(1) When completed, records are to be checked and approved by the district officer in charge before being submitted through the Chief Architect of the Park Service to the Chief of the Fine Arts Division of the Library, who in turn will have authority to accept or reject such records, dependent upon their consistency with other filed records of the Survey, and the general standards thereof, subject to appeal, in cases of dispute, to the National Advisory Board for final decision.

(2) The records of the Historic American Buildings Survey, as deposited in the Library, will become public property and will be accessible

to the public for research purposes, subject to the laws and regulations of the Library.

#### ARTICLE VI. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

(1) This agreement may be terminated by the Park Service, the Institute, or the Library by mutual consent, or by any one thereof, by giving to the others a written notice of its intention to withdraw, not less than sixty days before such withdrawal becomes effective.

*Note.—This agreement, as executed by the parties in interest, became effective as of July 23, 1934.*







Clemson University



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